2. Calendar Year 1993

(a) 35 Battle Tanks from China.

(b) 40 Combat Aircraft from China.

(c) 2 Warships from United Kingdom.

3. Calendar Year 1994

(a) 82 Battle Tanks from China.

(b) 2 Attack Helicopters from United Kingdom.

(c) 4 Warships from United Kingdom.

(d) 1 Warship from Netherlands.

4. Calendar Year 1995

(a) 51 Battle Tanks from China.

(b) 20 Armoured Combat Vehicles from China.

(c) 1 Attack Helicopter from United Kingdom.

Threat to India's Security due to Afghan Situation

2439. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Taliban on rampage holds many terrors for India" which appeared in Indian Express dated October 5, 1996;

(b) whether there is any adverse impact on India's security due to change of Government in Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the increased threat to country's security?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government continues to follow developments in Afghanistan very closely and evaluate their implications for us. There have been recent credible reports in the international media on the Taliban handing over terrorist training facilities to the Harkat-ul-Ansar. It is reported that at their training camps, Pakistani and other youth are being trained for terrorist activities in Kashmir.

Government continues to maintain its vigil and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security.

Credibility of Indian Air Force

2440. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Indian Air Force is gradually

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c). The concept of a 'lean and mean' force is the ultimate objective of the IAF, since it enables economy in scale of deployment of available forces to get still better results. This has been translated into practice, in terms of planning for modernisation of the IAF, by undertaking mid-life upgradation of existing weapon systems with sophisticated systems, acquisition of modern and Electronic warfare armour and provision of Precision Guided Munitions.

Selection of Candidates for the Post of Principal in KVs

2441. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether departmental candidates applying for the post of Principal in Kendriya Vidyalayas must have 15 years teaching experience as PGT or they should clear departmental test;

(b) if so, whether OBC candidates have been exempted from clearing the said departmental test;

(c) if not, whether some OBC candidates have been selected for the post of Principal last year though they neither had 15 years experience nor had cleared the test;

(d) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) In accordance with the recruitment rules of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Vice-Principal and/or Post Graduate Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas with 15 years service as such and Vice-Principal and/or Post Graduate Teachers with 10 years service and have passed the Departmental examination are eligible for the post of Principal in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (a). A complaint has been received which is under investigation.

[Translation]

Irrigation Problems in Southern-Bihar

2442. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the irrigation

(b) whether the Union Government are planning to implement the cheap and useful lift irrigation scheme there;

(c) If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation and flood control being a state subject, the responsibility of investigation, planning, formulation, execution, funding and implementation etc. of irrigation projects/schemes of all types rests primarily with the State Government. Major and medium schemes need clearance while Minor irrigation schemes do not require even clearance by the Union Government.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees'

2443. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees' (Committees of rural teachers) in the States; and

(b) The other new measures proposed to be taken for the spread of education in rural areas during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). Central Government is not aware of constitution of Committees of rural teachers in States. However, under the 73rd Constitution Amendment primary education is one of the subjects which can devolve on Panchayat Raj bodies. The Village Education Committee is envisaged as the main instrument for facilitating decentralised planning and management of education at the village level.

[English]

Security Council Seat

2444. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of senior officers in his Ministry, who had undertaken foreign tours in recent months to canvass for non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council;

(b) the details of the countries visited by them and the dignitaries they have met; and

(c) the salient features of the reports submitted by these officers?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Visits to 137 countries (statement enclosed) were undertaken by Envoys of EAM from January 1996 to October 1996 to canvass support for India's candidature to the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Important Summit level meetings were particularly targeted in Africa, Americas and the Caribbean and our case was projected among participating Member States at high levels.

Twenty one distinguished retired Foreign Service officers and Secretary level officers and Divisional Heads within the Ministry were deputed for these visits. A ministerial level representative was sent to the OAU Summit. As EAM's Special Envoys the delegates usually called on Foreign Ministers of those countries, apart from senior officials. The reports of the envoys were found useful in making an assessment of the position.

STATEMENT

List of Countries Visited by EAM's Special Envoys

Afghanistan
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentian
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republi
Chile
Colombia